

MINUTES
WILLIAMSTOWN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
August 11, 2008
7:00 P.M.

Present: Jane B. Allen, Chairman, David A. Rempell, Richard C. Steege, Ronald Turbin

Absent: Tom Costley

Others Present: Leslie Reed-Evans, Michael Faber, Juliana Haubrich, Lisa Moore, Kathy Poirot, Peter Fohlin

1. **CHAIRMAN'S OPENING STATEMENT:** On behalf of the Board, Ms. Allen expressed its gratitude to the Williamstown Fire Department and the many volunteers who showed up at the Bonnie Lea Farm during and in the aftermath of the barn fire.
2. **SELECTMEN'S MINUTES:** July 14, 2008 – Mr. Rempell moved to approve the July 14, 2008 minutes. Mr. Turbin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
3. **PETITIONER'S REQUEST:**

A. Williamstown Rural Lands Event (L. Reed-Evans) – Ms. Reed Evans announced an event to be sponsored by the WRLF called Williamstown Amble & Scramble, consisting of guided and interpretive hikes and children's activities at Sheep Hill. The event offers live music, raffle prizes, beverages and desserts. A \$10 donation is suggested. All proceeds will go to support the WRLF's educational programs at Sheep Hill at 671 Cold Spring Road.

4. **PUBLIC HEARING:**

A. **7:05 PM: Public Hearing:** Request from Wild Oats Cooperative, Inc., for a Beer and Wine Package Store License at 320 Main Street, Michael Faber, Manager. Mr. Rempell moved to open the public hearing. Mr. Steege seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Faber requested that the Board grant Wild Oats Cooperative a beer and wine package store license at 320 Main Street in order to offer selections of beer and wine not offered in town such as organic and locally produced. Mr. Rempell noted that the wine racks and beer cooler locations on the submitted floor plan are where the prepared foods are currently located. Mr. Faber said if the license is issued, then there will be a storewide reset moving the prepared foods to an area across from the café and the salad bar will be expanded. Mr. Turbin asked if Mr. Faber has been in touch with local distributors. Mr. Faber said he has contacted distributors will sell local and regional products. Ms. Allen noted that Mr. Faber did not have any liquor license experience and reiterated that the Board takes this job very seriously. She added that Mr. Faber and his employees should take TIPS training. Mr. Faber said he is getting the information for the training and plans to take it along with his employees. Mr. Rempell moved to go out of the public hearing. Mr. Turbin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Rempell moved to approve the request from Wild Oats Cooperative, Inc., for a Beer and Wine Package Store License at 320 Main Street, Michael Faber, Manager. Mr. Steege seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

5. **ITEMS FOR SELECTMEN'S CONSIDERATION:**

A. **"Haunted Williamstown"** (Juliana Haubrich) – Ms. Haubrich presented preliminary plans for Halloween events to take place on Friday, October 31 and Saturday

November 1 at Eastlawn Cemetery. She proposed a Theatre of the Macabre inside the Sherman Burbank Chapel to include three 30 minute shows with 15 minute breaks in between and also, a 20 minute Haunted Graveyard Tour in the oldest part of the cemetery. There will also be a large tent behind the chapel to include a jester and a magician and a large screen provided by Images Cinema to show some classic horror films. A smaller tent will be nearby offering snacks provided by Wild Oats Market and Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation will sponsor Halloween Crafts. Ms. Haubrich said this event will be family oriented. She concluded that this will be a collaborative effort of the Milne Public Library, Main Street Stage, Williamstown House of Local History, Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation, Inkberry Writer's Group, and Wild Oats. She is also working with the fire chief, police chief, building inspector and cemetery superintendent to make sure all of the appropriate permits and inspections are made.

Mr. Rempell asked that Ms. Haubrich update selectmen on final plans before the event via e-mail.

B. 4th Annual Hoosic River Bike Ride 8-23-08 (Lisa Carey Moore) – At the request of Mass Highway, Ms. Moore asked selectmen to approve the proposed route on Rt. 7 through Williamstown for the 4th Annual Hoosic River Bike Ride on August 23, 2008. The police chief did not require details on this route because bikers will only make right turns. Ms. Moore said the ride starts and ends in Bennington this year. Mr. Rempell moved to send a letter of the Board's approval to Mass Highway. Mr. Turbin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

C. Selectmen Appointments:

Affordable Housing Committee (6-30-09) Charles Bonenti
Northern Berkshire Cultural Council (6-30-11) Sandra Thomas
Constable (6-30-11) Andrew Bernardy, III
Sign Commission (6-30-09) Mark Freedman

Mr. Rempell moved to approve the above reappointments as presented. Mr. Steege seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

D. Chapter 90 Project Request – Hoxsey Street and Stetson Court – Mr. Turbin the Board approve and sign the Chapter 90 project requests in the amount of \$221,433.07 and \$74,520.82 respectively as presented. Mr. Steege seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

E. House of Local History Request for Botsford Funds – Mr. Rempell moved to disburse interest from the Botsford House Trust in the amount of \$1,609.88 to the House of Local History. Mr. Steege seconded and the motion carried.

F. Water and Sewer Warrant – Mr. Rempell moved to approve the water and sewer warrant in the amount of \$126,833.06. Mr. Turbin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

G. Massachusetts Department of Agriculture – Agriculture Preservation Restriction Interest – Ms. Allen announced, pursuant to MGL Chapter 7, section 401, the Department of Agriculture is considering the acquisition of property on Blair Road as stated in a letter from the DAR dated July 28, 2008.

H. September 16, 2008 State Primary Warrant – Mr. Rempell moved to sign the warrant as presented. Mr. Turbin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

I. Cal Ripken Field Lease and License – Mr. Turbin moved to approve and sign the lease between Williams College and Williamstown. Mr. Rempell seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Turbin moved to approve and sign the license between the Town of Williamstown and Williamstown Cal Ripken. Mr. Rempell seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

J. Special Town Meeting – September 8, 2008 – Mr. Fohlin asked the Board to set a Special Town Meeting at the September 8, 2008 selectmen meeting at 7 p.m. He said the purpose of the meeting will be to consider only one article to balance the Transfer Station FY09 budget. The Transfer Station revenue is an integral part of the process for the Massachusetts Department of Revenue to approve the town's tax rate, even though recycling and disposal are funded strictly from user fees with no tax dollars involved. At this year's Annual Town Meeting we appropriated \$190,685 from anticipated FY09 transfer station receipts. Actual receipts during FY08 just closed on June 30 totaled \$184,564. It is unlikely that DOR will approve our FY09 estimate in light of the FY08 actual. The only two solutions available to us are 1) to raise the rates, or 2) to appropriate money from the Transfer Station accumulated reserves.

There is no need to raise the rates. Concurrent with the shortfall in revenue has been a reduction in disposal fees. Thus even though FY08 receipts fell short of expectations (\$184,564 versus \$187,390), FY08 expenditures were also less than anticipated (\$164,556 v. \$187,390). The net result in FY08 just concluded was a \$20,008 surplus, indicating that a fee increase is not justified.

It does not seem responsible or necessary to open the elementary school and call out the voters for what amounts to a journal entry to the Transfer Station account. Thus I propose the brief Special Town Meeting for those in attendance at the September 8 selectmen's meeting to vote the single article.

Mr. Rempell moved Selectmen sign the Special Town Meeting Warrant for September 8, 2008 at 7 p.m. in the Selectmen's Room. Mr. Turbin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

6. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT: See attached report

7. OTHER BUSINESS: Ms. Allen announced there will be an exhibit at the Milne Library entitled Greetings from Coney Island a lecture and slide show courtesy of Robert Campanile on Wednesday, August 20th at 7 p.m.

8. ADJOURN - Mr. Rempell moved to adjourn. Mr. Steege seconded and the motion carried unanimously. The next Selectmen meeting is Monday, August 25, 2008 – 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Turbin, Secretary

RT/kp